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09/743,112	01/16/2001	Hiroshi Kamakura	108100	5773

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EXAMINER

BAUGH, APRIL L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2141

DATE MAILED: 03/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/743,112

Applicant(s)

KAMAKURA ET AL.

Examiner

April L Baugh

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 11-15, 17 and 18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10 and 16 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9, 11-15, 17 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Applicant amended claims 1-3, and 11-14 and canceled claims 10 and 16, therefore claims 1-9, 11-15, and 17-18 are now pending.

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3 and 11-14 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-9, 11-15, and 17-18 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,894,306 to Ichimura in view of Rothrock et al (US 5,983,263).

Regarding claim 1, Ichimura teaches a meeting system in which supplied-data convertible using a virtual machine is transmitted and received among a plurality of processing apparatuses

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interconnected via a transmission line, and in which meeting data is reproduced, at least two of said plurality of processing apparatuses comprising meeting data reproducing apparatus respectively (column 1, lines 8-13 and 25-28), at least one meeting data reproducing apparatus comprising: a conversion unit including a virtual machine that converts said supplied-data into a data format which allows said meeting data to be reproduced, the meeting data being stored in units based on corresponding units of the supplied-data, each unit of the meeting data being identifiable by a specific processing apparatus that supplied a corresponding unit of the supplied-data (column 10, line 65-column 11, line 6 and column 11, lines 41-49); a communication interface unit that receives said supplied-data from another processing apparatus; and a storage unit in which a generated image is stored and which is accessible by said another processing apparatus via said communication interface unit (column 6, line 40 through column 7, line 26 and column 8, lines 4-20 and 39-45), and each of said at least one meeting data reproducing apparatus and said another meeting data reproducing apparatus including said conversion unit and said communication interface unit reading a part of said meeting data from said storage unit and reproducing meeting data in a task-distributed fashion (column 4, lines 7-56 and column 38, lines 7-11 and 22-29), and said transmission line comprising an bus (column 7, lines 28-35 and column 34, lines 47-54).

Ichimura does not teach of an IEEE-1394 bus. Rothrock et al. teaches said transmission line comprising an IEEE-1394 bus (column 4, lines 12-24). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the data record/playback device displaying consecutive data and user input in association with each other

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by said transmission line comprising an IEEE-1394 bus because this is the ideal external bus to use in transferring high levels of video data because of its very high data transfer rate.

Regarding claim 2, Ichimura teaches a meeting system in which supplied-data convertible using a virtual machine is transmitted and received among a plurality of processing apparatuses interconnected via a transmission line, and in which meeting data is generated, at least two of said plurality of processing apparatuses comprising meeting data generating apparatus respectively (column 1, lines 8-13 and 25-28), at least one meeting data generating apparatus comprising: a conversion unit including a virtual machine that converts said supplied-data into a data format which allows said meeting data to be generated the meeting data being stored in units based on corresponding units of the supplied-data, each unit of the meeting data being identifiable by a specific processing apparatus that supplied a corresponding unit of the supplied-data (column 10, line 65-column 11, line 6 and column 11, lines 41-49);; a communication interface unit that receives said supplied-data from another processing apparatus; and a storage unit that stores generated meeting data, which is accessible by said another processing apparatus via said communication interface unit (column 6, line 40 through column 7, line 26 and column 8, lines 4-20 and 39-45), and each of said at least one meeting data generating apparatus and said another meeting data generating apparatus including said conversion unit and said communication interface unit reading a part of said meeting data from said storage unit and reproducing meeting data in a task-distributed fashion (column 4, lines 7-56 and column 38, lines 7-11 and 22-29), and said transmission line comprising an bus (column 7, lines 28-35 and column 34, lines 47-54).

Ichimura does not teach of an IEEE-1394 bus. Rothrock et al. teaches said transmission line comprising an IEEE-1394 bus (column 4, lines 12-24). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the data record/playback device displaying consecutive data and user input in association with each other by said transmission line comprising an IEEE-1394 bus because this is the ideal external bus to use in transferring high levels of video data because of its very high data transfer rate.

Regarding claim 3, Ichimura teaches a meeting system in which supplied-data convertible using a virtual machine is transmitted and received among a plurality of processing apparatuses interconnected via a transmission line, and in which meeting data is generated and reproduced (column 1, lines 8-13 and 25-28), at least one of said plurality of processing apparatuses comprising meeting data generating apparatus, at least one of said plurality of processing apparatuses comprising meeting data reproducing apparatus, said meeting data reproducing apparatus comprising: a conversion unit including a virtual machine that converts said supplied-data into a data format which allows said meeting data to be reproduced (column 6, line 40 through column 7, line 26 and column 8, lines 4-20 and 39-45) the meeting data being stored in units based on corresponding units of the supplied-data, each unit of the meeting data being identifiable by a specific processing apparatus that supplied a corresponding unit of the supplied-data (column 10, line 65-column 11, line 6 and column 11, lines 41-49); a communication interface unit that receives said supplied-data from another processing apparatus; said meeting data generating apparatus comprising: a conversion unit including a virtual machine that converts said supplied-data into a data format which allows said meeting data to be generated; a communication interface unit that receives said supplied-data from another processing apparatus,

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at least one of said meeting data generating apparatus and said meeting data reproducing apparatus comprising a storage unit in which a generated image is stored and which is accessible by said another processing apparatus via said communication interface unit, and said meeting data generating apparatus and said meeting data reproducing apparatus accessing said storage unit and generating and reproducing meeting data (column 4, lines 7-56 and column 38, lines 7-11 and 22-29) ,and said transmission line comprising an bus (column 7, lines 28-35 and column 34, lines 47-54).

Ichimura does not teach of an IEEE-1394 bus. Rothrock et al. teaches said transmission line comprising an IEEE-1394 bus (column 4, lines 12-24). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the data record/playback device displaying consecutive data and user input in association with each other by said transmission line comprising an IEEE-1394 bus because this is the ideal external bus to use in transferring high levels of video data because of its very high data transfer rate.

Regarding claim 11, Ichimura teaches an information storage medium readable by a computer including a storage unit and that stores information for generating meeting data while a plurality of processing apparatuses interconnected via a transmission line transmit and receive, and perform distributed processing on, supplied data in a common format interpretable by a virtual machine, the meeting data being stored in units based on corresponding units of the supplied-data, each unit of the meeting data being identifiable by a specific processing apparatus that supplied a corresponding unit of the supplied-data (column 10, line 65-column 11, line 6 and column 11, lines 41-49), said information comprising: information for implementing a communication interface unit which allows said storage unit to be shared by other processing

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apparatuses via the transmission line (column 6, line 40 through column 7, line 26 and column 8, lines 4-20 and 39-45), the transmission line comprising an bus (column 7, lines 28-35 and column 34, lines 47-54).

Ichimura does not teach of an IEEE-1394 bus. Rothrock et al. teaches said transmission line comprising an IEEE-1394 bus (column 4, lines 12-24). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the data record/playback device displaying consecutive data and user input in association with each other by said transmission line comprising an IEEE-1394 bus because this is the ideal external bus to use in transferring high levels of video data because of its very high data transfer rate.

Regarding claim 12, Ichimura teaches an information storage medium readable by a computer including a storage unit and that stores information for generating meeting data while a plurality of processing apparatuses interconnected via a transmission line transmit and receive, and perform distributed processing on, supplied data in a common format interpretable by a virtual machine, the meeting data being stored in units based on corresponding units of the supplied-data, each unit of the meeting data being identifiable by a specific processing apparatus that supplied a corresponding unit of the supplied-data (column 10, line 65-column 11, line 6 and column 11, lines 41-49), said information comprising: information for generating supplied-data in said common format; and information for transmitting said generated supplied-data to at least one of said processing apparatuses having storage unit accessible by the respective processing apparatuses via the transmission line (column 6, line 40 through column 7, line 26 and column 8, lines 4-20 and 39-45), the transmission line comprising an bus (column 7, lines 28-35 and column 34, lines 47-54).

Ichimura does not teach of an IEEE-1394 bus. Rothrock et al. teaches said transmission line comprising an IEEE-1394 bus (column 4, lines 12-24). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the data record/playback device displaying consecutive data and user input in association with each other by said transmission line comprising an IEEE-1394 bus because this is the ideal external bus to use in transferring high levels of video data because of its very high data transfer rate.

Regarding claim 13, Ichimura teaches an information storage medium readable by a computer including a storage unit and that stores information for generating meeting data while a plurality of processing apparatuses interconnected via a transmission line transmit and receive, and perform distributed processing on, supplied data in a common format interpretable by a virtual machine (column 6, line 40 through column 7, line 26 and column 8, lines 4-20 and 39-45), said information comprising: reading information for accessing at least one of said processing apparatuses having storage unit which stores said meeting data and which is accessible by the respective processing apparatuses to read said meeting data stored in said storage unit, the meeting data being stored in units based on corresponding units of the supplied-data, each unit of the meeting data being identifiable by a specific processing apparatus that supplied a corresponding unit of the supplied-data (column 10, line 65-column 11, line 6 and column 11, lines 41-49); and reproducing information for reproducing read image data, said reading information comprising: information for generating supplied-data indicating a reading request and for converting said supplied-data into said common format; and information for transmitting said converted supplied-data to a processing apparatus having said storage unit to receive supplied-data including meeting data from said processing apparatus, said reproducing

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information comprising: information for implementing said virtual machine; and information for converting supplied-data using said virtual machine in accordance with the received supplied-data so as to reproduce the meeting data (column 1, lines 8-13 and 25-28 and column 4, lines 7-56 and column 38, lines 7-11 and 22-29).

Regarding claim 14, Ichimura teaches an information storage medium readable by a computer including a storage unit and that stores information for generating meeting data while a plurality of processing apparatuses interconnected via a transmission line transmit and receive, and perform distributed processing on, supplied data in a common format interpretable by a virtual machine (column 1, lines 8-13 and 25-28), the meeting data being stored in units based on corresponding units of the supplied-data, each unit of the meeting data being identifiable by a specific processing apparatus that supplied a corresponding unit of the supplied-data (column 10, line 65-column 11, line 6 and column 11, lines 41-49), said information comprising: requesting information for requesting a particular service to another processing apparatus; providing information for providing a particular service to another processing apparatus, said requesting information comprising: information for generating supplied-data indicating a request and for said particular service and converting said supplied-data into said common format; and information for transmitting said converted supplied-data via the transmission line, the transmission line comprising an bus (column 7, lines 28-35 and column 34, lines 47-54), to a processing apparatus (column 6, line 40 through column 7, line 26 and column 8, lines 4-20 and 39-45), said providing information comprising: information for implementing said virtual machine; information for receiving supplied-data indicating a request for a service from another processing apparatus and converting supplied-data using said virtual machine; information for

determining whether it is possible to provide said service in accordance with said converted supplied-data; and information for, if it is possible to provide said service, providing said service (column 4, lines 7-56 and column 38, lines 7-11 and 22-29).

Ichimura does not teach of an IEEE-1394 bus. Rothrock et al. teaches said transmission line comprising an IEEE-1394 bus (column 4, lines 12-24). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the data record/playback device displaying consecutive data and user input in association with each other by said transmission line comprising an IEEE-1394 bus because this is the ideal external bus to use in transferring high levels of video data because of its very high data transfer rate.

Regarding claim 4, Ichimura teaches the meeting system according to claim 3, said supplied-data comprising at least one of image data for displaying said meeting data and control data for controlling the displaying of said meeting data, said meeting data reproducing apparatus comprising: a display unit that displays said meeting data in accordance with said image data; and a control unit that controls the displaying of said meeting data in accordance with said control data (column 4, lines 7-25 and column 6, line 60 through column 7, line 26 and column 10, line 62 through column 11, lines 6).

Regarding claim 5, Ichimura teaches the meeting system according to claim 3, said processing apparatus comprising a server device, said supplied-data comprising a component object serving as a part of a program for generating said meeting data, and said meeting data generating apparatus generating said program for generating meeting data in accordance with received component object and generating said meeting data using said program (column 4, lines

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7-25 and column 6, line 60 through column 7, line 26 and column 10, line 62 through column 11, lines 6).

Regarding claim 6, Ichimura teaches the meeting system according to claim 3, said meeting data generating apparatus comprising data control unit that stores the supplied-data, converted by said conversion unit, in said storage unit in which particular presentation data is stored while said supplied-data is managed in units of supplied-data received from each of said processing apparatuses (column 8, lines 4-20 and 40-45), and reads meeting data including at least a part of said supplied-data and said presentation data from said storage unit in accordance with a reproduction command from each of said processing apparatuses, and said communication interface unit comprising a transmitting unit that transmits the read meeting data to said meeting data reproducing apparatus (column 4, lines 7-25 and column 6, line 60 through column 7, line 26 and column 10, line 62 through column 11, lines 6).

Regarding claim 7, Ichimura teaches the meeting system according to claim 6, said meeting data reproducing apparatus reproducing said meeting data stored in said storage unit in units of data associated with said processing apparatus which supplies said supplied-data, in accordance with said reproduction command (column 6, line 60 through column 7, line 26 and column 8, lines 4-20 and 40-45 and column 38, lines 6-10 and 22-30).

Regarding claim 8, Ichimura teaches the meeting system according to claim 7, said meeting data generating apparatus comprising: an image-recording unit that records images of a meeting scene, and an image data unit that stores image data obtained as a result of the recording of images of the meeting scene in said storage unit as a part of said meeting data, in predetermined units of data, and said meeting data reproducing apparatus reproducing said

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meeting data stored in said storage unit, in predetermined units of data in accordance with said reproduction command (column 1, lines 8-11 and 25-28 and column 6, line 40 through column 7, line 26).

Regarding claim 9, Ichimura teaches the meeting system according to claim 8, at least one of said meeting data generating apparatus and said meeting data reproducing apparatus comprising a projector (column 6, lines 40-49).

Regarding claim 15, Ichimura teaches the information storage medium according to claim 14, said supplied-data comprising at least one of meeting data, an object for generating meeting data, an object for controlling the generation of meeting data, an object for reproducing meeting data, and an object for controlling the reproduction of meeting data (column 4, lines 6-56).

Regarding claim 17, Ichimura teaches the meeting system of claim 1, at least two processing apparatuses being associated with at least two respective meeting participants, and each of the at least two processing apparatuses identifying a corresponding one of the at least two respective meeting participants (column 10, lines 37-43).

Regarding claim 18, Ichimura teaches the meeting system according to claim 1, the generated image being generated based on the meeting data, and each of the at least one meeting data reproducing apparatus and the another meeting data reproducing apparatus simultaneously displaying different parts of the generated image on different sub-area of a display area (column 11, lines 3-6).

Conclusion

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2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kuver et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to April L Baugh whose telephone number is 571-272-3877. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on 571-272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ALB


RUPAL DHARIA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER